

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the following:

1. (Currently amended) A method of transferring data between a primary station and a plurality of secondary stations, each secondary station having a distinguishing identifier, the method comprising the steps of:

assigning each secondary station to at least one of a plurality of categories, wherein each station in a category has at least one common characteristic;

storing, in the primary station, the identifiers of the secondary stations which are in each category;

transmitting, by the primary station, beacon signals containing indications of those categories for which the primary station has data to be transferred;

determining, by ~~[[a]] each of the secondary station~~that stations whether there is an indication of the secondary station's assigned category in a received beacon signal;

transmitting, by ~~[[the]] each of the secondary station~~stations in the category a response including the secondary station's identifier;

determining whether the primary station has data for transfer to the secondary station having the indicated identifier.

2. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the beacon signals are transmitted intermittently.

3. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the primary station acknowledges negatively if the primary station does not have a data signal for a secondary station in an indicated category.

4. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a secondary station intermittently monitoring for the presence of beacon signals.

5. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a secondary signalling a request for a change of category to the primary station.

6. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein a change of category request signal includes an indication of the category to be changed to.

7. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the categories comprise a common operating characteristic.

8. (Currently amended) A signalling system comprising at least one primary station and a plurality of secondary stations, each of the secondary stations having a distinguishing identifier, the primary station comprising means for storing into which of a plurality of categories the identifiers of the secondary stations have been assigned, wherein each station in a category has at least one common characteristic, and a transmitter for transmitting beacon signals containing indications of those categories for which the primary station has data to be transferred, each secondary station having means for recognising an indication of ~~[[its]]~~ the category it has been assigned in a received beacon signal and means for transmitting a response including the secondary station's identifier when the category the secondary station has been assigned is indicated in the received beacon signal and the primary station having means for determining that the primary station has data for transfer to the secondary station having a recognised identifier and for causing the data to be transmitted to the secondary station.

9. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the primary station has means for causing the transmitter to transmit the beacon signals intermittently.

10. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the primary and secondary stations operate on a single frequency channel.

11. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the primary station has means for transmitting a negative acknowledgement if the primary station does not have a data signal for a secondary station in an indicated category.

12. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein a secondary station having means for intermittently monitoring for the presence of beacon signals.

13. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein a secondary signalling having means for transmitting a request for a change of category to the primary station.

14. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said means for transmitting a request for a change of category includes means for indicating the category to be changed to.

15. (Currently amended) A secondary station for use in a signalling system in which a primary station transmits beacon signals containing indications of those categories of secondary stations for which the primary station has data, wherein each station in a category has at least one common characteristic, the secondary station comprising a transceiver, means for storing an allocated category and secondary station identifier, means for storing a wakeup sequence for the transceiver, means responsive to receiving a beacon signal for checking if the beacon signal contains an indication of the allocated category, and if the indication of the allocated category is determined, the secondary station ~~has, for~~ causing the transceiver to transmit to the primary station a response message including the secondary station identifier, and means responsive to a reply from the primary station for causing the secondary station either to remain energized to receive data or to adopt a sleep mode.

16. (Previously presented) A primary station for use in a data signalling system comprising a plurality of secondary stations, each of the secondary stations having a distinguishing identifier, the primary station comprising means for assigning the secondary stations to a plurality of categories, wherein each station in a category has at least one common characteristic, means for storing the identifiers of the secondary stations in each category, a transmitter for transmitting beacon signals containing indications of those categories for which the primary station has data to be transferred, means for receiving responses including identifiers from secondary stations assigned to the categories indicated in the beacon signals, means for checking if there is data for transmission to the identifier of the secondary station which sent a response and, if so, for causing the data to be transmitted by the transmitter.

17. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further including the step of transferring the data to the said secondary station.

18. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the common operating characteristic a secondary station wakeup sequence.